

# **News from Ed Markey**

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Markey Alarmed by Bush Administration Proposal to Roll Back Patient Privacy Protections in Medical Privacy Rule**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. --**

Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA) expressed his opposition to the Bush Administration's proposal to roll back privacy protections established in the final medical information privacy standards mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

"By stripping the consent requirement from the health privacy rule, the Bush administration strips patients of the fundamental right to give their consent before their health information is used or disclosed. While certain aspects of the existing consent requirement need minor revisions - the Administration's proposal throws the baby away with the bath water and radically reverses course on the core of the health information privacy rule. It concerns me greatly that the Bush Administration is proposing a roll-back of this crucial element in the rule and it is my hope that this poor privacy proposal will be retracted.

"I am looking forward to thoroughly reviewing the details of the Administration proposal and to working to strengthen the important privacy protections established in the health privacy rule."

Rep. Markey is the third ranking Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee which has jurisdiction over the issue of Medical Privacy.

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